

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-07 STR-04 DOTE-00

EPA-01 OES-06 CEQ-01 L-03 /055 W

----- 130341

R 220305Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2405

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USDEL MTN GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD JA

SUBJECT: AUTOMOBILE CERTIFICATION ISSUE

REF: STATE 232390

1. ECON COUNS HAS TWICE DISCUSSED AUTO SITUATION WITH K. SAITO, DIR, 2ND N.A. DIV., MOFA SINCE SAITO'S RETURN FROM WASHINGTON ON SEPTEMBER 16. SAITO STATED THAT HE HAD HOPED TO OBTAIN BUT HAD BEEN UNABLE TO GET ANY WRITTEN ASSURANCE FROM MOT OFFICIALS THAT MODEL CERTIFICATION WILL BE COMPLETED WITHIN 45 DAYS OF SUBMISSION. NEVERTHELESS, HE DOES HAVE AN ORAL ASSURANCE OF "BEST EFFORTS" AND A STATUS REPORT ON EACH MODEL TYPE WITHIN 45 DAYS OR LESS.

2. SAITO INDICATED THAT HE BELIEVES IN MOST INSTANCES A DEFINITE DECISION OF APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL CAN BE GIVEN WITHIN 45 DAYS, ALTHOUGH DELAY COULD BE CAUSED IF SEVERAL AUTO COMPANIES SEEK MODEL-TYPE APPROVALS AT THE SAME TIME.

3. FYI. IN REGARD TO THIS LAST POINT, WE CONTACTED LOCAL FORD REPS WHO STATED THAT FORD WILL BEGIN SUBMITTING ITS 16 EARLY PRODUCTION VEHICLES FROM SEPTEMBER 27 AND PLANS TO HAVE THEM ALL SUBMITTED BY OCTOBER 16. FORD REGARDS ITSELF THUS FAR AS "RIGHT ON SCHEDULE". TYPE VEHICLE

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SUBMISSION OF BOTH GM AND CHRYSLER MODELS IS DONE BY THEIR

JAPANESE DEALERS. END FYI.

4. EMBASSY NOTES PER PARA 4 REFTEL THAT DOT IS NOW CONSIDERING OTHER WORDING POSSIBILITIES ON DATE OF MANUFACTURE ISSUE AND LOOKS FORWARD TO RECEIVING WASHINGTON'S SUGGESTIONS SO THAT WE MAY PURSUE THAT MATTER.

HODGSON

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